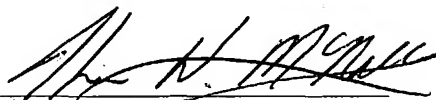


### REMARKS

Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the present amendment, claims 10-23 have been canceled without prejudice. The remaining claims 1-9 are those claims withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 10/096,772, in view of a restriction requirement. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted



By: Thomas W. McNally  
Reg. No. 48,609  
Attorney for Applicants

F.CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP  
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501  
East Meadow, New York 11554  
Telephone: (516) 357-0091  
Facsimile: (516) 357-0092